



# National Child Care Information Center

*A service of the Child Care Bureau*

NCCIC

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## **CENTER CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATIONS (JULY 2005): STATES WITH RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION EXEMPTIONS**

A National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) review of child care center licensing regulations has found that the following 15 States allow exemptions from licensing for religious organizations.

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care has the full text of all State child care licensing regulations on its Web site at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/STATES/states.htm>. A directory of all State child care licensing agencies is available in the State Contacts section of NCCIC's Web site at <http://nccic.org/statedata/dirs/regoffic.html>.

State	Additional Information
Alabama	Preschool programs operated by churches or religious nonprofit schools are exempt from licensure, but must receive an official exemption.
Arkansas	Child care facilities that are operated by a church or group of churches and are exempt from the State Income Tax may be exempt from licensing, but must submit a written request to the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education for exemption.
Connecticut	Exemption applies to religious education programs run by religious institutions exclusively for members' children, and recreation programs that may include church-related activities.
Florida	Licensing regulations do not apply to a child care facility that is an integral part of church or parochial schools conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an organization that publishes and requires compliance with its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. Such programs must follow State child care licensing regulations relating to screening child care personnel, and must meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and safety and shall meet the screening requirements. Bible schools normally conducted during vacation periods are exempt from licensure.
Illinois	Exemption applies to Church-sponsored part-day child care programs that serve only children over the age of 3 and choose not to apply for voluntary licensing.
Indiana	Programs with religious affiliations may be unlicensed, but must register with the State Board of Health and State Fire Marshal's Office.
Louisiana	A recognized religious organization which is qualified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and does not operate more than twenty-four hours in a continuous seven-day week is not

State	Additional Information
	considered a day care center.
Maryland	Nursery schools and child care centers operated by tax-exempt religious organizations are exempt from licensing standards pertaining to qualifications for staff and requirements for the program of activities.
Missouri	Any child care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive control of a religious organization is exempt from licensing, but must meet annual fire safety, health, and sanitation inspections.
New York City	Children's programs run by public or religious private elementary schools in New York City are regulated by the city's Department of Education (DOE). In addition, programs must comply with most of the standards of the Health Department, but do not receive a license.
North Carolina	Religious sponsored child care facilities including summer day camps are exempt from licensing. Programs must meet many of the State center licensing requirements. See State center regulations for details.
South Carolina	Exemption applies to Bible schools and child care programs run by churches or other religious organizations that receive no public funds and have not applied for a license.
Tennessee	Child care centers run by religious schools are approved by the State DOE.
Utah	Parochial institutions are exempt from licensing if the institution is able to satisfy the Department that the care provided is clearly educational rather than primarily care in lieu of that which a parent provides and it meets at least three of the following four requirements: (1) All children in care are over the age of 3; (2) The institution has a written curriculum used as part of a course of study for the children in care; (3) A majority of the time that a child is in care is devoted to studying the established curriculum; and (4) The parochial institution has a governing board that actively supervises and directs the curriculum and program used by the institution.
Virginia	Child day centers operated or conducted under the auspices of a religious institution are exempt from licensure. If such a center chooses not to be licensed, certain documentation must be filed annually with the Virginia Department of Social Services. In addition, the Code of Virginia outlines additional requirements that exempt day care centers must meet.
<b>Total of 15 States*</b>	

**\*Note:**

States includes New York City, which has separate center regulations from New York State.

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource.

*Updated July 2005*